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GOVERNOR

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HAL TAYLOR
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2023

ALEA's Marine Patrol Set to Launch Spring Boating Basics/License Course

Courses Offered Across Northern Portion of the State

MONTGOMERY – Springtime in Alabama is just around the corner, so now is the time to prepare for boating season.

Troopers within the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Marine Patrol Division are set to launch Boating Basics/License Courses beginning February 11, across the northern portion of the state. Although the eight-hour sessions are free and open to the public, individuals interested in attending must contact ALEA's Marine Patrol to reserve a space.

Marine Patrol Division Chief Steve Thompson said, "We want to ensure all vessel operators and passengers are safe while enjoying Alabama's lakes, rivers and other bodies of water. Prospective boaters who complete the course will have an opportunity to obtain a Boating Basics certificate, which is required for the boater endorsement on Alabama's driver license."

Corporal Robert Ping from ALEA's Marine Patrol Division Northern District agreed and said, "There is no better boater safety program taught than the classes taught by Marine Patrol Troopers. Our classes allow for interaction with the instructor, and they are structured with an emphasis on the issues of your local bodies of water. With summer boating season right around the corner, now is the time to get licensed so that you may safely enjoy the beautiful waters of Alabama."

The one-day course sessions are designed to include interaction with Troopers in ALEA's Marine Patrol Division, who spend time on the local waterways and discuss the particular challenges boaters may face. Anyone age 12 and older is welcome to sign up for the class as 12-year-olds are eligible to obtain a vessel operator's license for operating a vessel when accompanied by a licensed adult. At age 14, they are allowed to operate a vessel alone.

Upcoming classes will be held in the northern portion of the state. Prospective boaters are encouraged to email the following Marine Patrol Troopers for the session they would like to attend and to confirm times and dates.

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ALEA – MARINE PATROL DIVISION

REGION 4 – BOATING SAFETY / BOATER LICENSE CLASSES

February - April 2023

CITY	DATE / TIME	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	EMAIL
ARLEY	Feb. 18, 2023 9A - 5P	Helicon Fire Department 6019 Helicon Road, 35541	Tpr. Kasey Pruitt	Kasey.Pruitt@alea.gov
ARLEY	Mar. 11, 2023 9A - 5P	Arley Volunteer Fire Department 236 County Road 7, 35541	Tpr. Kyle Stephenson	Joseph.Stephenson@alea.gov
ARLEY	Apr. 1, 2023 9A - 5P	Arley Volunteer Fire Department 236 County Road 7, 35541	Tpr. Kyle Stephenson	Joseph.Stephenson@alea.gov
CENTRE	Feb. 25, 2023 8A - 5P	Cherokee Co. Chamber of Commerce 801 Cedar Bluff Rd # A, 35960	Tpr. Eric Watson	Eric.Watson@alea.gov
CENTRE	Mar. 25, 2023 8A - 5P	Cherokee County EMA 260 Cedar Bluff Rd # 104, 35960	Tpr. Eric Watson	Eric.Watson@alea.gov
CENTRE	Apr. 22, 2023 8A - 5P	Cherokee County EMA 260 Cedar Bluff Rd # 104, 35960	Tpr. Eric Watson	Eric.Watson@alea.gov
DECATUR	Feb. 11, 2023 9A - 5P	Tim Baker real Estate 738 Hwy 67 South, 35603	Tpr. Larry Adams	Larry.Adams@alea.gov
DECATUR	Mar. 11, 2023 9A - 5P	Dry Creek Marine 3704 Gordon Terry Pkwy, 35673	Tpr. Larry Adams	Larry.Adams@alea.gov
DECATUR	Apr. 8, 2023 9A - 5P	Fredericks Outdoors 1312 South Bethel Rd, 35603	Tpr. Larry Adams	Larry.Adams@alea.gov
FLORENCE	Feb. 22, 2023 9A - 6P	University of North Alabama 701N. Pine St, 35632	Tpr. Chad Dyer	Chad.Dyer@alea.gov
FLORENCE	Mar. 11, 2023 8A - 5P	Cypress Creek Indoor Range 5060 Alabama Hwy. 157, 35633	Tpr. Cody Farrar	Justin.Farrar@alea.gov
GRANT	FEB. 16, 2023 12P - 6P	Erwin Marine 28601 US Hwy 231, 35747	Tpr. Jake Mayo	Jacob.Mayo@alea.gov
GUNTERSVILLE	APR. 8, 2023 9A - 3P	Guntersville Rescue Squad 2350 Miller Street, 35976	Tpr. James Young	James.Young@alea.gov
GUNTERSVILLE	Mar. 18, 2023 12P - 6P	Guntersville Rescue Squad 2350 Miller Street, 35976	Tpr. Kevin Hawkins	Kevin.Hawkins@alea.com
KILLEN	Apr. 15, 2023 9A - 6P	Killen Town Hall / Volunteer Fire Dept. 319 JC Mauldin Hwy, 35645	Tpr. Cody Farrar	justin.farrar@alea.gov